

# INS REPORTER

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## Director's Corner

This is our last newsletter under the Immigration & Naturalization Seal. As many of you know, on March 1st, the INS officially became part of the Department of Homeland Security. The INS transitioned into DHS under three separate components: The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

### Points of Interest

- INS officially became part of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on March 1
- Naturalization Ceremony—(N400) May 28, 2003
- The new web site is [www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov)
- April 25th is the final day for group 4 to comply with NSEERS registration requirements

(BICE) and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP).

As we move forward and transition into DHS, I will continue to provide you with information as it is made available. I want to ensure to all of you that as we merge into these new challenges, we are still a

team and are still committed to enforcing our national security concerns and providing our immigrant community the services that we offer on immigration benefits. We are now in our third month and we have continued to excel in our efforts to reach out to our community about the procedures involving individu-

als who must comply with the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) registration process. Since the end of last year, my staff and I have personally met with the numerous community organizations, AILA attorneys and consulate officials. I have also had the opportunity to discuss this registration process at great lengths with the members of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (PCC-USA) and the Ambassador of Pakistan. I want to commend all of our employees on how well we've come together as a team to meet and exceed the challenges we have been tasked with completing. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to mention the invaluable participation of the community in this process. This participation is without a doubt a major reason for the success of the registration program in Houston.



I continue to be committed to keeping the lines of communication open to ensure that we are aware of the sensitivities and concerns of the members of our community. I am open to hearing your suggestions and concerns.

Hipolito M. Acosta

Interim District Director  
for Services

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**INS Reminds Certain Temporary Foreign Visitors of Registration Requirement**  
***Government Extends Grace Period to Allow Individuals from Previous Notices to Register***

Certain temporary foreign visitors must comply with the registration requirement of five countries of a requirement to register with INS. This registration is part of the second phase of the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), being implemented by the government to fulfill a Congressional mandate to implement a comprehensive entry-exit program by 2005.

The NSEERS program helps ensure our nation's security by protecting the rights of individuals coming to this country as well as the safety of the American people. While America is an open and generous society that welcomes visitors from foreign countries, it is essential that the government know who is entering and exiting our borders. NSEERS promotes several important national security objectives by helping the U.S. to identify wanted criminals and known terrorists entering our borders, enabling the Bureau to determine instantly when temporary foreign visitors have overstayed their visa, and verifying that temporary foreign visitors are doing what they said they would be doing and living where they said they would live.

Under this program, temporary foreign visitors (non-immigrant aliens) coming from certain countries or who meet a combination of intelligence-based criteria are identified as presenting elevated national security concerns. As a result, they are required to be registered under NSEERS, providing detailed information about their background and the purpose of their visit to the United States. Such individuals are also required to verify periodically their location and activities, as well as to confirm their departure from the United States.

The process at the ports of entry has operated effectively with participation of temporary foreign visitors from 145 countries. Officers have made every effort to minimize any delay or inconvenience to those individuals required to register under this program.

Temporary male foreign visitors age 16 and older, who are citizens or nationals of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan or Kuwait, were present in the United States as non-immigrants before October 1, 2002,

and plan to stay in the United States until at least April 25, 2003, must register between February 24, 2003 and April 25, 2003.

Most are students, individuals in the U.S. on extended business travel, or individuals visiting family members for lengthy periods. The requirement to register does NOT apply to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (green card holders), refugees, asylum applicants (who filed before January 16, 2003), asylum grantees, and diplomats or others admitted under "A" or "G" visas.

Willful failure to register constitutes a criminal violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This is one of several notices to protect the national security of the United States by enrolling additional temporary foreign visitors in NSEERS.

In addition, it was announced that the registration period was extended until March 21st for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

For a list of local offices or sub-offices in respective states, please visit the website at [www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov). Individuals may also call the INS Service Center at 800-375-5283.

**List of Countries For NSEERS "CALL-IN" as of January 2003**  
**CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL CALL-IN REGISTRATION**

<b>Countries Call-In Group # 3 (THREE)</b>					
<b>List of Countries</b>	<b>Male – born on or before:</b>	<b>No pending asylum application</b>	<b>In the U.S. at least until:</b>	<b>Required to register with INS between:</b>	<b>Annual Registration period:</b>
<u>Pakistan &amp; Saudi Arabia</u>	January 13, 1987	December 18, 2002	March 21, 2003	January 13, 2003 and March 21, 2003	10 Days before or after the one-year anniversary date of initial registration date
<b>Countries Call-In Group # 4 (FOUR)</b>					
<b>List of Countries</b>	<b>Male – born on or before:</b>	<b>No pending asylum application</b>	<b>In the U.S. at least until:</b>	<b>Required to register with INS between:</b>	<b>Annual Registration period:</b>
<u>Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, &amp; Kuwait</u>	February 24, 1987	January 16, 2003	April 25, 2003	February 24, 2003 and April 25, 2003	10 Days before or after the one-year anniversary date of initial registration date

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***This is an unofficial electronic newsletter published monthly by the Houston Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to help provide immigration-related information to INS external audiences. This publication should include but is not limited to our monthly progress report, web site, phone numbers, contact names, brief explanations of INS processes and procedures.***

For more information check our web site at  
[www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov)